RCE 13677 A

OIPE Docket No. 163-380

MAR 3 1 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE PATENT OPERATION

Applicants:

) Examiner: Ruth C. Rodriguez

Carlo Cattaneo

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Serial Number: 10/079,121

) Art Unit: 3677

Filing Date: February, 19 2002

Title: CONNECTION DEVICE FOR THE REALISATION OF A TUBULAR-

FRAME STRUCTURE FOR SUPPORTING SURFACES

New York, NY 10036
March 29 2004

APR 0 5 2004

GROUP 3600

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendments Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Amendment is being filed prior to examination and also in response to the Office Action that was mailed July 10, 2003. Kindly amend the above identified application as follows:

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on March 29, 2004 in an envelope addressed to:

> Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendments Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

James V. Costigan, Reg. No. 25,669